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Application No.: 09/988,455

DEC 01 2006

2000P20541US
Gritzbaeh et al.AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is ~~set forth~~ below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A computerized medical diagnosis management system allowing a central operator to monitor and control two or more diagnosis instruments, comprising:

(a) a central computer system comprising a data processor;

(b) at least one data interface operatively coupled to the data processor and configured to receive data from the two or more diagnosis instruments located at remote patient sites, wherein each diagnosis instrument is configured for displaying measurement data and/or diagnosis data on a local monitor allowing a local operator to monitor the diagnosis instrument at a patient site during a patient's examination;

(c) an input unit operatively coupled to the data processor and configured to select a diagnosis instrument from the two or more diagnosis instruments and to generate a control code for the selected diagnosis instrument, when a control instruction for actively controlling the selected diagnosis instrument is entered by the central operator through the input unit to enable active intervention by the central operator during a patient's examination; and

(d) a display unit operatively coupled to the data processor and configured to display the received data simultaneously or successively to allow the central operator to monitor and control the two or more diagnosis instruments during patient examinations.

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wherein the data interface automatically forwards the control code to the selected diagnosis instrument.

2. (original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the data interface is
 - (a) two or more hardware modules each operatively coupled via a separate data communications line to a diagnostic instrument, or
 - (b) a software module configured to access the diagnostic instruments based on addressing information for each diagnostic instrument.
3. (original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the data interface is configured as an Internet interface.
4. (original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the system is configured to receive data from at least two diagnosis instruments that transmit data in dissimilar formats.
5. (original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the system is configured to receive data from a diagnosis instrument mounted on a mobile platform.
6. (original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the display unit displays the measurement data and/or diagnosis data in the same way as the local monitor of the diagnosis instrument.
7. (original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the system is configured to replicate an operating console of the diagnosis instrument in response to the control instruction.
8. (original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the diagnosis management system is configured to control the diagnosis instrument in real time via user instructions delivered at the input unit.
9. (original) A system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an acoustic input device configured to pick up a voice signal spoken at the site of the input unit of

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the diagnosis management system, wherein the data processor sends the voice signal to a selected medical diagnosis instrument.

10. (original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the system is configured to receive image data from at least one camera installed at the site of one of the diagnosis instruments, and wherein the data interface is configured for recording the image data.

11. (original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the system is configured to receive data from the diagnosis instruments in real time or to receive stored data from the diagnosis instruments.

12. (currently amended) A computerized method for managing two or more medical diagnosis instruments located at remote patient sites, comprising:

(a) receiving at a central computer system measurement data and/or diagnosis data from the remotely located diagnosis instruments in real time;

(b) presenting to an-a central operator the measurement data and/or diagnosis data simultaneously or successively on a display unit operatively coupled to a data processor of the central computer system to allow the central operator to monitor the remotely located diagnosis instruments;

(c) selecting a diagnosis instrument for active control by the central operator when the central operator enters an input into the data processor;

(d) converting the entered input into a control code for the selected diagnosis instrument to enable active intervention by the central operator during a patient's examination; and

(e) forwarding the control code in real time from the central computer system to the selected diagnosis instrument; and

(f) displaying the measurement data and/or diagnosis data received from one of the diagnosis instruments on the display unit in the same way as on a monitor locally available to the diagnosis instrument thereby allowing a local operator to monitor the diagnosis instrument at a patient site during a patient's examination.

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13. (previously presented) A computerized method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising receiving data in dissimilar formats from at least two diagnosis instruments and processing the dissimilar format data for display in a standardized format.

14. (cancelled)

15. (original) A computerized method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising controlling the diagnosis instrument in real time via user instructions delivered at an input unit operatively coupled to the central computer system.

16. (original) A computerized method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising receiving an operator voice signal and sending the voice signal to the site of the selected medical diagnosis instrument.

17. (original) A computerized method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising the central computer system receiving stored data saved earlier locally at one of the medical diagnosis instruments and presenting the data on the display unit.

18. (original) A computerized method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising the central computer system receiving and recording image data from at least one camera located at a diagnosis instrument site.

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)